

Speaker 1: Today is Sunday, March 21st, thank you Wendell. I'm here at Wendell F. Hutchinson's house on Highway 50. It's about 5:25 in the afternoon and we are continuing our ... This is our second recording of Hutch's life. We ended up when you were 14 or 15 and you're driving your bike ... Driving your bike. You were driving your car to school and you didn't have a license, but we already went through that.

Why don't you tell me some of the things you remember about what you did in high school, the activities, the classes you took, did you like it, did you not like it, some of the friends you had. Go ahead.

Wendell: Get started on it.

[00:01:00]

Speaker 1: Start... Are you comfortable?

Wendell: You do have to talk into this thing?

Speaker 1: No, you're just fine.

Wendell: Just fine, okay. I graduated from Valley View School over here. It was the 8th grade graduation and we had to go up, I think maybe I already said that, didn't I?

Speaker 1: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Wendell: We went up to Poncha, old Poncha schoolhouse, there were about 31 districts in the county then. I went up there and that's where I gave my graduation speech. I talked about Chief Ouray and his wife, Chipeta, and their son, Pahlone. My great uncle Art he give me the story and I was scared I remember giving that speech in front of a whole room full of people up there in the top of the Poncha schoolhouse.

[00:02:00]

I talked to some others that graduated about the same time like Art Post here in Salida, he remembers very well the same thing that happened. There was Leta Cantonwine, a girl from Nathrop. She graduated tops in our class at Salida High School, Leta Cantonwine did. She also graduated from in the 8th grade and she gave a talk at the old schoolhouse. I don't know what she talked about. I just remembered Art Post, for one.

Then the next year my brother graduated and he-

Speaker 1: Brother who?

[00:03:00]

Wendell: My brother, Jake. He's about 2 years younger than I am. He talked on the Espinozas, rather they marauded the area-

Speaker 1: That's right.

Wendell: Came through killing different old timers that were in log cabins.

Speaker 1: Right, you told me all that.

Wendell: I told you that.

Speaker 1: Last week, but I'd love to hear it again but we want to get into some other things. It was a great story.

Wendell: Anyway, that's what I talked about. It's getting warm in here, isn't it?

Speaker 1: Yeah, got the fire going? No? Need some help?

Wendell: I'm going to stand up.

Speaker 1: Here.

Wendell: If I can get up.

Speaker 1: Here, I can help.

Wendell: You don't need a sheepskin coat on today, do you?

[00:04:00]

Speaker 1: No, and a flannel shirt.

Wendell: Thank you.

Speaker 1: Sure. Why don't you scoot up a little closer? What were some of the activities you participated in in high school and your classes?

Wendell: In high school I was going to go out for football and I did for about a little while but I decided after meeting up with a couple of real tough guys in front of me and being snowed under, I thought I'd rather be a student. It did make a different change in my life, too, when I put ... Being an athlete in school was a good honor and a good many of my classmates did become good athletes like oh, Eugene Aby, Frank Curtis, Sammy Post, Art Post, some others. I decided that I would ... Oh another one, Albert Starbuck. Those were guys on the football team then.

[00:05:00]

The coach was Guv Gruenler and he was a tough old bird.

Speaker 1: Gruenler?

Wendell: He scared me all the time.

Speaker 1: Did you say Guv?

Wendell: He balled me out ... Guv Gruenler.

Speaker 1: Gruenler.

Wendell: He talked mechanical, in other words he was a shop teacher but not the wood.
[00:06:00] Metal. They rebuilt old cars and farm machinery and stuff. That was Guv Gruenler but he was an assistant coach, too. Remember the early coach White was a very productive coach, Salida High School in the 1930s. Won the state championship 3 times in a row and then the final year, 1936, they got beat in the finals by Grand Junction, 6-0.

Speaker 1: Ouch.

Wendell: I remember seeing that game. It was a cold game, I went with my parents to see the game.

Speaker 1: Did you ever play in a game or you quit the team before just the practice?

[00:07:00]
Wendell: No, I didn't go out for any wrestling or basketball or any of those things. Some of my classmates did and really starred ... Not only did the early teams of the '30s do well but about the time I graduated Neal Mehring was the coach and Neal Mehring was ... He had 3 different years where he got to the state championship but lost in the final game. First game they played Fort Collins for the state championship.

Back in those days schools played everybody.

Speaker 1: They didn't have divisions and-

Wendell: They didn't have divisions so much but for example we played South High School in Denver, played Fort Collins, but in that particular period they played
[00:08:00] Fort Collins and lost 7-6, and then the next year they played I think Loveland and they got beat by a couple of touchdowns.

Speaker 1: Wow.

Wendell: The third time I think they played Longmont.

Speaker 1: What was the year, again?

Wendell: It was either-

Speaker 1: Longmont?

Wendell: I graduated from high school 1942.

Speaker 1: That's close enough, I'm just trying to follow.

Wendell: 1942 they beat Fort Collins, 1943 I think they played Loveland, in 1944 they played Longmont. They lost all 3 games.

Speaker 1: Those were big schools.

[00:09:00]

Wendell: Some of the teachers I remember in high school were Mr. Burgener and his son Jack was a classmate of mine, Jack Burgener. He was also a good football player, Jack Burgener. There was let me see, the teacher that taught Spanish and Latin was Donald Custer. Don Custer was a very good teacher. I took Spanish 2 years, then the final year I took Latin. I thought Latin would be good because I wanted to become a veterinarian.

Speaker 1: You knew then?

[00:10:00]

Wendell: I thought if I knew Latin terminology it would help me, and it did. It did help me to take Latin but the Spanish helped also since Spanish is a kind of a Latin-based language.

Let's see, the math teacher was Joseph Soles and he was a wiry little man that always walked real fast to school. He would always point out, he would point to you and say if you hand your hand up, he'd say, "You, big boy, you big boy. What do you know about this? You big boy." I don't know what he said to the girls. Every boy was a big boy. "You big boy." Joe Soles.

[00:11:00]

Incidentally, the high school burned too, not while I was in school there but later. This Joe Soles has a lot of different geometry and he had a lot of geometry symbols up on his wall. They had a hard time keeping him out of there when the fire was going. He said, "All my things are going to burn," and they did because they wouldn't let him go back in and get them.

Speaker 1: Do you recall the year of the fire?

Wendell: I was on the school. I became later after I got out of school, I was on the school board. I started I think on the school board about 9th ...

Speaker 1: That's okay, maybe I'll look it up.

[00:12:00]

Wendell: I can't remember exactly what year that-

Speaker 1: Sometime in the '50s.

Wendell: When it burnt the school down and the present high school was what we built

later, but I was on the school board 29 years.

Speaker 1: Wow.

Wendell: I was the President the last 18 years. I'd say that fire took place in the 1950s. Let's see. The chap that taught chemistry and physics was Alan Hampshire, Alan Hampshire. I thought he was a very good teacher. He came from Coffeyville, Kansas. The classmates was always trying to get Alan Hampshire to get off the subject, so they'd mention Coffeyville and he'd get off on Coffeyville, Kansas and he started talking about all those, Jesse James and all the desperadoes in Kansas and get him off the subject. He taught physics and chemistry.

[00:13:00]

The principal, the superintendent at that time was Lawrence A. Barrett, Lawrence A. Barrett. L.A. Barrett. He was a very bright man, also. Let's see. The principal then was a chap by the name of Kennedy. He's not related to John F. Kennedy and that group but he was Irish and he was a very good principal.

Let me see who else.

Speaker 1: Was there ever any reason for you to be sent to the principal's office?

Wendell: Was there what?

[00:14:00]

Speaker 1: Was there ever any reason for you to be sent to the principal's office? That you want to talk about?

Wendell: No, I was a pretty good boy. I didn't get sent to the principal's office much, so I wasn't reprimanded.

Speaker 1: Did you have a favorite teacher?

Wendell: Did I ever what?

Speaker 1: Did you have a favorite teacher?

Wendell: Yeah, I guess I did then. There was a teacher that taught English. Her name was Wilma Scott. She taught English. She was still there when I, later, when I was on the school board, we still had Wilma Scott, and she was really a fine English teacher. In fact when I graduated from high school I had to give a speech and she was the one that taught me ... She helped me write out the speech. To this day I can't remember what I said, didn't really make much sense. I would've been better off if I could've given a good history talk.

[00:15:00]

Speaker 1: Were you valedictorian of your high school class?

Wendell: No. Leta Cantonwine was the valedictorian and the second in charge was Maxine Heberer.

Speaker 1: How do you spell that?

Wendell: Maxine Heberer. I think the Heberers owned the old Sherman Hotel in town. Leta Cantonwine was a country girl from out at Nathrop. The Cantonwine family was one of the earliest settlers there in the valley. They had to give up their farm, too, because of hard times. During the Depression years, the '30s, but Leta, we've had several class reunions since. In fact our graduating class, 1942, has had more reunions than any other class. I think we've had oh, 15 maybe, 15 reunions. The last one was our 60th and we tried to get Leta Cantonwine to come, but she didn't. We had one of the boys in our class that I remember became a medical doctor. Dr. Howard Rupp. I remember when he was in school, he was in Alan Hampshire's chemistry class and he cut himself on a broken test tube and it caused him to faint and he fell right back into Alan Hampshire's arms. Alan was pretty ... I think he was quite excited. I think he thought Rupp was going to die.

[00:16:00]

[00:17:00]

Then Rupp went on to become a medical doctor and he said all his life if he could stand all kinds of blood from other people but if he cut himself he would faint. He couldn't stand to see his own blood.

Speaker 1: Wow. You had mentioned a little earlier that you took Latin because you knew you wanted to become a veterinarian?

Wendell: Yes.

Speaker 1: When did you decide that you wanted to become a veterinarian and what caused you to decide that? How did you come to that?

Wendell: I'll tell you. My father, he used to help the local veterinarian around here do things. Dr. Christensen and a Dr. Riemenschneider. They'd get him to go help them. He was a good hand at throwing horses and that sort of thing. They'd get him because a lot of times in those days they didn't give the horse any anesthetic, they just put ropes on the horse and pulled their legs out from under them and threw them. Then the vet would castrate them.

[00:18:00]

[00:19:00]

A lot of times too, ranchers themselves would cut their own horses. Anyway, that's kind of the reason I wanted to be a vet was is it kind of intrigued me. I remember Dr. Riemenschneider's car, and Dr. Christensen's car both, they had all kinds of drugs pretty much in the back seat of the car and had an arsenal of drugs in there and bottles and chains to pull calves and that sort of thing. That's kind of when I decided I wanted to maybe become a vet.

I think I owe a lot of gratitude to my cousin of mine, he was a second cousin. His name was Mark Hutchinson. I have a son named Mark Hutchinson, too, but this was a second cousin. He was a son of Joseph Mills Hutchinson, who was sheriff here from 1917 to about 1927.

Speaker 1: He was one of them that influenced you in becoming a vet?

[00:20:00]

Wendell: Yeah. Those 2 different vets had their cars full of things and that's one of the reasons I decided to become a veterinarian, I think. Then the fact that I started, I didn't go out for sports so I just started studying a lot. I didn't graduate in tops of the class but I did graduate third in my class.

Speaker 1: That's pretty good.

Wendell: That was pretty good. Incidentally there were 92 in our class and that was the largest class for many, many years. The very next year when my brother and Rex Rhodes, you know Rex Rhodes?

Speaker 1: Oh yeah, mm-hmm (affirmative), sure.

Wendell: Rex Rhodes were in that next class. I think there was only 55 in the class. The
[00:21:00] reason there was so many there 1942, in the late '30s they were doing a lot of road construction around here on the highway, Highway 50, and the road over Poncha Pass and up to Monarch, those roads were all kind of rebuilt. Anyway, that's one of the reasons I guess I became a vet was that I was interested not only in the livestock here on the ranch, but my neighbors, too, most of them all had cattle of some kind.

For example, the Starbucks down here had a dairy and if you go down the road you still see a sign that says Starbucks.

Speaker 1: Right near the bowling alley.

[00:22:00]

Wendell: Originally that was the King Brothers Dairy and King, each had a dairy barn and on each side of it the 2 dairy barns faced each other and then the Townsends, if you go down by the Starbuck place, the 2 houses were very much alike and they faced each other. Still do. Betty Starbuck lives in the west most house and the eastern house was exactly like it.

Most of the Starbuck boys and grew up there, in the lower house. Dr. Gene Aby who was a vet in Glendive, Montana, also became a vet. He was in my class and he was a good athlete but he still, still practicing. He's about my age, almost 80, and he's in Glendive, Montana.

[00:23:00]

Speaker 1: Where'd you go to school?

Wendell: Then I went to college. We both went to see Colorado State University. Then it was Colorado A&M College, Colorado Agricultural-

Speaker 1: They called it the Aggies, didn't they?

Wendell: That's where I went to college. That's where Gene Aby went, also. Gene went in the service, first. I started in school at CSU, well at Aggie. Then I dropped out because my father, it was during the war years, he couldn't get help on the ranch and I came home here. For 2 years I helped my father on the ranch.

[00:24:00] Then finally I went back about 1946 then, but I served a hitch in the Merchant Marine there, just before getting back into college again. I served a hitch in the Merchant Marine, in the South Pacific. At that particular time they were amassing great fleets of ships and airplanes and I was on a tanker, the SS Le Brea Hills tanker. It went out to sea with a load of high octane gas. If it had ever been bombed it would've, we would've been blown to smithereens.

[00:25:00] Anyway, the thing about that was that's when Truman decided to go ahead and drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Japanese ended the war then. It saved a lot of, cost a lot of lives of civilians, Japanese people but it sure saved a lot of American lives because they'd amassed a great amount of ships and war planes and stuff and they were going to attack, Japan, but the Japanese would've really dug in. It would've been a very costly error.

I guess Truman decided to do it right. He dropped that atomic bomb on both of those 2 towns and it devastated them. Terrible slaughter. Weapons of mass destruction.

Speaker 1: Long ago, yeah.

Wendell: That George Bush today can't find.

Speaker 1: He's still looking, though.

Wendell: He's still looking though, isn't he?

[00:26:00]
Speaker 1: Let's see. You graduated from Colorado State University?

Wendell: Yeah, incidentally I-

Speaker 1: In 1946?

Wendell: There were about 45 in my graduating class. I was second.

Speaker 1: Gosh, you're really smart.

Wendell: I had pretty good grades. I studied like a dog, too.

Speaker 1: Good for you.

Wendell: I studied long hours, I'll say that.

Speaker 1: You loved it, so that was a good incentive.

Wendell: I did. I graduated then and I think I graduated in 1949, I know it was '49, the same year I married my sweetheart, Sue. Sue Swallow. The Swallow family was an early family here, too. It was on Highway 50, down there about where the Ford garage is. That was Swallow property. At one time they owned most of the, she seen her early relatives including Noah Behr, they owned all the water rights that Tennessee had. Some of the best water rights on the train. I wish we'd kept some of those rights but we didn't.

[00:27:00]

Speaker 1: Where did you meet your sweetheart?

Wendell: She came up to some dances here. I remember the first time I danced with her and the first time I really noticed her much was over at a schoolhouse here in Adobe Park. It was the Adobe Park Schoolhouse. She was sitting over there with her 2 sisters, Frankie and Anne, and her dad was there, too, and mother. Most of the guys were afraid to ask them to dance because they were afraid of Lou Swallow. He was an older man. He was the same age as my grandfather and he also, so he was about 50 when he married Mrs. Swallow, who was a Wall.

[00:28:00]

Anyway, I remember walking across the floor feeling kind of conspicuous and didn't know whether she'd say yes or no, but she did and so I had the first dance. I couldn't dance very well of course, but I remember that as if it was yesterday.

Speaker 1: Oh wow. You didn't actually go to school with her? This was when you were both out of school?

Wendell: No, she went to school here in her earlier years, then they moved to ... First they moved to California. She went to some California school when she was little, then she moved to Tempe, Arizona, and she enrolled in Arizona State and she graduated from Arizona State in 1949, the same year I graduated from CSU.

[00:29:00]

We got married that same year, 1949. Got married in August. I got out of college June the 10th and she had gotten out in late May down at Arizona State. We had the wedding in the old Presbyterian church here in Salida. It was at Third and F Street. There's just a vacant lot there, now. They moved the church, they tore it down. I have the windows, part of the windows in this house, here, come out of that church. The present Presbyterian church has most of the same windows that were in the original Presbyterian church.

[00:30:00]

Speaker 1: Wow. It was love at first sight?

Wendell: Kind of, yeah, I guess it was. Anyway, I remember I went down to Tempe to ask her to marry me. I wasn't sure she'd say yes. I was out there. I went down to see her. I went with a friend from Aggie's in that early year. I went down with him.

[00:31:00]

He drove me down in a new Plymouth. His name was Schaffer, Ted Schaffer. I went with him. He stayed there with us, too. I should've proposed to her out on the prairie, there. We went out to get some wood for the fireplace and but I didn't. I waited until evening. It was kind of a hurry. We had another engagement to go to and my wife was kind of anxious to get there on time.

Speaker 1: Your girlfriend. You weren't married yet.

Wendell: [00:32:00] Anyway, I was excited. I pulled off on a side road and then I proposed to her. I had a ring and gave her the ring and she agreed to marry me so we got married on August 17th, 1949.

Speaker 1: Wow.

Wendell: Then we were here a bit then moved to Gunnison, Colorado, where I practiced for almost a year and then came back to Salida later and practiced here the rest of my life until just a few years ago.

Speaker 1: What did she get her degree in?

Wendell: In education.

Speaker 1: She was a teacher?

Wendell: [00:33:00] Yeah, she was a teacher. She also majored in piano. She took piano and she thought maybe she might be a pianist for maybe an orchestra somewhere. After we got married she was tired of that constant practicing for those complicated melodramas or whatever they are. She never much after we had a family she just became, husband. She helped me with my vet practice. We had 3 children and they grew up and she was really good to take care of the kid, and even the grandchildren. I had one of my granddaughters here just this past week. In fact she left just Saturday, Abby Hutchinson. She lives, she's gone to CSU incidentally, and she's majoring in animal science. She was here.

[00:34:00] Sue helped those 2 kids, that's my son-in-law had 2 girls, Erin and Abby. Erin was the oldest one and she has a horse training business at Longmont now, but Abby is still going to CSU. She works at Starbucks coffee place. Had to get over there 5 am each morning and open up and get it going, get the coffee perking and all that stuff.

Speaker 1: They followed in your footsteps in a way, didn't they?

Wendell: Yeah, kind of, mm-hmm (affirmative).

Speaker 1: Did you show them, when they were younger did they get to stand by you like you were learning and you found out in high school that this was going to be the job you wanted?

Wendell:
[00:35:00] They did have the opportunity to grow up here. My wife for many years they stayed upstairs in the upper bedroom up there. When Abby came this past week she went up there and stayed. It reminded her of the days she stayed up there with my wife. She said my wife would have Erin on one side and Abby on the other. Sometimes they'd change sides and sometimes one would be next to her and then they'd change and the other one would be.

Speaker 1: You were a close family, sounds like?

Wendell: Yeah, we're a close family. Then we did have some disagreements. Having her come here the other day was a kind of a reunion, I would say.

Speaker 1: Oh, wonderful.

[00:36:00]
Wendell: Which was very nice. My son Art and Lisa have kind of disagreements and that was what I had some, too.

Speaker 1: I think all families have disagreements.

Wendell: Have troubles, don't they?

Speaker 1: You're not the only one. That's neat that they've followed in your footsteps, I think. That says a lot about you that your granddaughters have followed in your footsteps. They must admire you.

Wendell: Would you repeat that, please?

Speaker 1: I was just saying that I think that says a lot about you and how you influenced your grandchildren because they are doing the same type of work, at least working with animals, they have the love for animals that you do.

[00:37:00]
Wendell: That's right. She up feed the cows the other day, she helped me change the water up here and moving tarps around and stuff. That's what she wants to do. That's Abby. She wants to come here.

The other girl has that horse thing going and I think she's doing very well with it but she's now living in Longmont and has a horse business there. She leased a piece of ground from a rancher and it had a barn, a stable, and so she leases stalls out for horses. She also teaches other girls how to jump. Erin got to be quite an avid horse jumper.

Speaker 1:
[00:38:00] Wow. That is a sport. We've got you graduating from college and marrying and you have your children. I was just going to ask if you can remember, we had talked before we got on about the different ranches that were around.

Wendell: When?

Speaker 1: When? The different ranches when? A long time ago, as far back as you can remember.

Wendell: I would say there's some things that have not changed so much. For example, Frank McMurray has probably the largest ranch in the valley. Frank McMurray still owns the ranch and he runs it with his offspring. He has 3 children and one of them married a girl from the San Luis Valley. They still run the ranch here in Nathrop.

[00:39:00]

Then there's Joe Cogan. The Cogan's had themselves a pretty big ranch and they run about 400 cows. It has reduced some. Albert Eggleston runs most of the cattle there now, but Albert's related to Joe Cogan.

Speaker 1: How? How is he related?

Wendell: How are they related?

Speaker 1: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Wendell: The old original Jack Cogan, he had 4 daughters and one of them married Norman Eggleston and Norman and his wife then had 6 kids. Albert, who lives out here now, has one of them, now. That ranch out there that Albert's on now was owned by some of I think ... I think it was owned by one of the Usnicks He bought it and he put sprinklers on it and now he's made a real fine ranch and raises a lot of alfalfa hay to sell.

[00:40:00]

Also, he went out to Joe Cogan, his uncle, and bought his cattle, a bunch of them, and so he's running on Joe Cogan's forest permits.

Speaker 1: Where is that ranch?

Wendell: It's out on the way to Buena Vista.

Speaker 1: Oh, okay, the one in Nathrop? Yeah.

[00:41:00]

Wendell: It's about I'd say it's about 3 miles this side of Buena Vista, 3, 4. That's the Cogan ranch.

Speaker 1: That was the Cogan ranch when you were growing up, too?

Wendell: Yeah, it was Cogan then, also.

Speaker 1: Can you remember some others?

Wendell: Yeah, there was Frank Fehling owned a lot of the land that Frank McMurray has today. Frank Feeling was Frank McMurray's uncle. He was a legislator. Had been

[00:42:00] in the Colorado legislature as a representative from Chaffee and Lake and Fremont counties. Frank Fehling owned a lot of the land that Frank McMurray has today. There were other ranchers that were not then in those days, I remember.

[00:43:00] One was a guy by the name of Charlie Matlock, had a nice ranch. I mean today it's owned by Alice and Gary Hill. They recently sold a lot of their water to I think Pueblo West off of those ranches they had there. Originally those ranches were owned by the Donley's. John Donley. Alice Hill, she works down here now at TJ Liquors but her husband moved to the San Luis Valley and owns most of the lands on Saguache Creek over there. He went over there, got a son-in-law, Tate Scanga and Mary Jo Scanga, one of them. He has another one, Corey Hill and then there's a George Hill and then there's another girl married Josh Stout.

Speaker 1: What was that? Josh what?

[00:44:00] Wendell: Josh Stout. They have a little boy named Jace. J-A-C-E. Jace. That daughter is and that's Alice and Gary's daughter, also living out there with ... She was Peggy McMurray but she married a chap by the name of Scanga and they live there at Nathrop. She teaches school I think in the Buena Vista system, Vicki Scanga.

There's others, a lot others too, I guess. There was Race Hale, Race Hale lived up there kind of just below Buena Vista and he had a sizable ranch. Originally when I was here the Paquette family owned property.

Speaker 1: Paquette?

[00:45:00] Wendell: There were several Paquettes. The old Paquette house just sits on Highway 50. It's a 2-story brick right on ... It's not 50, it's 285.

Speaker 1: 285?

Wendell: Sits on 285. That's the John Paquette house. The Paquette were early people here, too. There's not many of those left, either. Harold Starbuck's wife down here is a Paquette and they lived, they're next door neighbors.

Speaker 1: Betty?

Wendell: They own the old Starbuck property.

Speaker 1: Is that Betty? Betty Starbuck?

Wendell: Betty Starbuck.

Speaker 1: Betty Starbuck was a Paquette?

[00:46:00] Wendell: I think Harold runs and owns probably most of the property now. I don't know how it's fixed up for the family but one of the Paquette, Rick Paquette married a

Moser girl and she's still living and she is on Highway 50 and so and then Betty, let's see, Harold's wife is Judy, she was Judy Paquette and she married Harold Starbuck. Harold had 2 girls.

Speaker 1: Sorry? Harold Starbuck-

Wendell: Harold Starbuck, he has 2 girls. One of, the oldest one, the youngest one's Amy
[00:47:00] and she just had a baby I think about the 29th of December and she called it Mackenzie.

Speaker 1: That's cute.

Wendell: She's got a little daughter named Mackenzie. The other girl has not got married but both Amy and the other girl were very pretty. The one girl had horses for several years and competed in 4H with her horses. Right offhand the name of that older girl skipped my mind.

Speaker 1: That's because you've got so much in that mind of yours, you've got an incredible memory. Why don't we go to some of the buildings that or some of the structures that were around? We were going to talk about that today. For instance, can we start with the smoke stack and what you remember about it?

[00:48:00]

Wendell: The smoke stack was built about 1917. The reason it was built was to take those fumes from that smelter over there higher so it would drift off and hit the Arkansas hills instead of before it was landing on the fields around there and was poisoning the crops so they built that tall smoke stack. It's probably 365' tall.

We had a committee on which I was kind of the president of the group and we called it the committee, "Save Our Stack," SOS, Save Our Stack committee, and we saved it, happened to know the right people.

Speaker 1: When did you have SOS?

Wendell: When?

Speaker 1: Save Our Stack?

[00:49:00]

Wendell: Before 1977 because George Everett and Danny Everett were alive then and they were killed in the plane crash that hit the mountain up here, so it was just before that. I'd say maybe 1975. Early '70s, there, we had the SOS committee.

Speaker 1: Obviously it worked because it's still there?

Wendell: It did work, yeah.

Speaker 1: Is there anything else you can-

Wendell:
[00:50:00] I think one of the reasons, too, is old Joe Lionelle now was kind of instrumental in getting the right people to back us. I think some people said he was even close to the mafia, but I don't want you to print that, probably. Anyway, it's possible. It's possible. That's what I know about the stack. We saved the stack. See what else.

There's the Valley View School. I went to it and they're trying to restore it. They're trying to get a grant to restore it. I think they got a grant to get it on the National Register as historic places. You know where it is?

Speaker 1: Yes, I do. On 140, County Road 140.

Wendell:
[00:51:00] I went there 8 years. My brother Jake went there 7, and my brother Joe who just called me this afternoon incidentally, he went there until he was about in 5th grade I think, then he moved to Salida. I mean they took him. He was bused into Salida. My own kids when they came along they went Salida schools.

Speaker 1: Because this is where you lived, in this house.

Wendell: Today it seems like they bus just about everybody, even a block away. Sometimes they get a ride to school.

Speaker 1: Did you tell your children that story, well, I used to walk 5 miles to school?

Wendell: It's just 1 mile to Valley View School, 1 mile and back.

Speaker 1: It wasn't so bad.

[00:52:00]

Wendell: The Campbells, Kevin Campbell recently had some articles in the paper. It was Norman and David and Helen Campbell and they come up from the west up there, we used to call it the Campbell Place. They walked to school. They walked a little further than we did, they walked probably a mile and a half. My brother and I went 1 mile. There were several kids, a long, long way.

The old Woods family, they supposed to built that school in about 1902, John Woods, did. A bunch of the Woods boys, I know there was Art and Bowers and several of those boys went to school there.

Then Ken Baker, the president. He's an attorney here now, he went there too to Valley View School in later years.

[00:53:00]

Speaker 1: That has quite a history, doesn't it? I think we're going to start to close now so I just wanted to see if you had anything else you wanted to bring up before we called it quits on this interview?

Wendell: Quit and then get another, maybe think of something another night?

Speaker 1: Yeah, if it's okay with you we'll get together again and start from your life right here as a veterinarian.

Wendell: Sue and I, when we first got out of college we went to Gunnison and we bought Doctor Riemenschneider's practice there and we practiced there about a year before we came back to Salida. Do I have that already in there?

Speaker 1: Yes, you mentioned a little earlier. Why don't you tell me just briefly, why you came back to Salida? If you want to share it with us.
[00:54:00]

Wendell: My brother Jake came over when we were at Gunnison and he said, "You know," he said, "I don't like to hear Frank anymore, I'm kind of fed up with Frank so he has been doing that," and he says, "Would you and Sue contemplate coming back and running the ranch?" I said, "Yes, I would."

We came back here and that was the main reason I guess, because he asked me to. Then also I always loved the ranch, loved to do it, and so I came back for 2 reasons, I guess. One, my brother wanted me to and one that I wanted to and Sue of course being a Swallow down here, she wanted to move back to Salida too-

[00:55:00]

Speaker 1: It made everybody happy.

Wendell: Made everybody happy.

Speaker 1: Then you opened a practice here?

Wendell: I was able to practice here.

Speaker 1: Still run the ranch?

Wendell: Still run the ranch. Then about 1965 I built the hospital over there and I sold that hospital to Kit in about 1981 and then I agreed not to practice for 5 years, then come back. In the meantime I did quite a bit of work for Kit and then came back and set up a clinic out here next door.

Speaker 1: In just the last couple of years-

Wendell: Yeah, probably the last, let's see, Sue died in '96, yeah, about '92 I come back and run that. After Sue died I continued to operate it. Then Janet Varhus kind of bought the clinic and she moved up to her new place up there.
[00:56:00]

Speaker 1: You're quite a lot of history for Salida and again, I enjoyed talking to you and we'll do it again.

Wendell: We'll do it again.

Speaker 1: We'll do it again. All right, thank you very much.

Wendell: You bet. Thank you for coming out.

Speaker 1: I've got a truck. I drive out, so maybe someday I'll walk out, though.